

KERNEWEK DRE LYTHER.

Dyskans Onan

Kynsa dyskans

Folenn 1

(Mutations and Indefinite Article.)

KERNOW.

Kernow yw konna tir orth penn Breten² Veur. Kernow yw bro² geltek. Yowann yw Kernow. Ev a² drig yn Kernow. Ev a² gews Sowsnek. Ev a² gews Kernewek ynwedh. Pyth yw mammyeth Yowann? Sowsnek yw mammyeth Yowann. Fatell² dhysk Yowann Kernewek? Yowann yw esel an Kowethas an Yeth Kernewek. Ev a dhe² glas rag dyski Kernewek. Prag y⁵ tysk ev Kernewek? Drefenn y² vos Kernow!

Gerva (Vocabulary.)

Kernow	= Cornwall, Cornishman	pyth?	= what
yw	= is	mammyeth (f) Yowann	
konna tir	= peninsula	= John's mother tongue	
orth penn	= at the end (of)	Fatell ² dhysk Yowann?	
Breten ² Veur (f)	= Gt. Britain.	= How does Yowann learn?	
bro (f)	= country.	esel	= member
keltek	= Celtic.	Kowethas an yeth (f)kernewek	
Yowann	= John.	= Cornish Language Fellowship	
ev	= he.	Ev a dhe ² glas=	He goes to a class
yn	= in	rag dyski	= (in order) to learn
a ² gews	= speaks.	Prag y ⁵ tysk ev Kernewek?	
Sowsnek	= English.	= Why does he learn Cornish?	
a ² drig	= lives.	Drefenn y ² vos Kernow!	
Kernewek	= Cornish.	= Because he is a Cornishman!	
ynwedh	= also		

All the nouns marked (f) are feminine. The others are masculine.

Pronunciation note. The word "dhe" meaning "to" is (exceptionally) pronounced exactly as the English word "the" (not "thee").

Govynnadow (Questions)

All the answers can be found in the passage, and just copied down. All except number 6 should be complete sentences.

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|-----------------------------|---|
| 1) Pyth yw Kernow? | 4) Pyth yw mammyeth Yowann? |
| 2) Pyth yw Yowann? | 5) Fatell ² dhysk Yowann Kernewek? |
| 3) Ple (Where) trig Yowann? | 6) Prag y ⁵ tysk ev Kernewek? |

Gramasek (Grammar.)

Mutations. In Cornish, many words change their first letter, and this change depends on the word coming before it. The changes are called "mutations." The basic unchanged form as shown in the dictionary is called "First State," and there are four possible sets of mutations which are numbered 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th state. They are described as follows:

1st state	=	basic dictionary form.
2nd state	=	soft mutation.
3rd state	=	aspirate (breathed) mutation.
4th state	=	hard mutation.
5th state	=	mixed mutation.

However, these states are usually referred to by their numbers. A table of mutations comes with this lesson. It should be kept prominently displayed for easy reference. A blank space on the table indicates that no change takes place. A dash shows that the letter drops out completely and the second letter becomes the initial one.

Note, however, that K, P and T do not soften to G, B and D respectively when they follow S or TH at the end of the previous word. They remain unchanged. Likewise K does not change to the 3rd state (H) when followed by L, N, or R. (You will appreciate that Hl, Hn and Hr would be rather difficult to say!)

You will see now why some words in the passage, vocabulary and questions have a figure after them. The figure shows the mutation state of the following word, so, “a² gews” shows that “gews” is in second state. Look at the table to find the first state of this word. It is “kews.”

Exercise 1. Write down the first state of the word following the numbered word in each of the following phrases:

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|-----------------------------|---|
| 1) An ² vro. | 6) Fatell ² dhysk |
| 2) Breten ² deg. | 7) An ² Gernewes. (Cornishwoman) |
| 3) bro ² geltek. | 8) Ev a dhe ² glas . |
| 4) Ev a ² drig | 9) Prag y ⁵ tysk ev? |
| 5) Ev a ² gews. | 10) Drefenn y ² vos Kernewek. |

Here are some more to practise on. Write down the first state as before .

Exercise 2.

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| 1) dhe ² dre. (to town.) | 6) an ² dus. (the men.) |
| 2) y ² goweth. (his friend) | 7) dha ² das. (your father.) |
| 3) ow ³ howeth.(my friend.) | 8) ow ³ thas. (my father.) |
| 4) dhe ² wir. (truly.) | 9) yn ⁵ fras. (greatly.) |
| 5) an ² venyn. (the woman.) | 10) ow ⁴ tos. (coming.) |

It is impossible to use a dictionary unless you convert a mutated word back to its unmutated, first state form before looking it up. The mutated forms are not shown. Always check with the table until you are perfectly familiar with all the mutations. (Like “dhe²”, “dha²” meaning “your” is also pronounced like the English word “the” (not “thee.”)The spelling distinction is maintained to ease visual recognition.)

Indefinite Article. In English, this is the word “a” in front of a noun (naming word) **e.g.** “a peninsula,” “a Cornishman.” You will see from the passage that it is not normally used in Cornish so that the Cornish for “a peninsula” is just “konna tir” and “a Cornishman” is just “Kernow.” (In the old Cornish texts *unn* was sometimes used to mean *a* but this is not usual in Revived Cornish)

Exercise 3: Using the words in exercises 1 and 2, translate the following into Cornish Don't forget that the words must be in first state.

- 1) A town. (2) A friend. (3) A woman. (4) A father. (5) A class.